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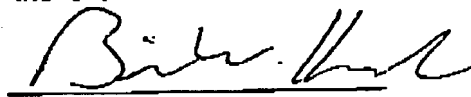
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Stephen W. VORLEY et al. )  
SERIAL NO: 10/524,695 ) Group Art Unit: 3679  
FILED: February 15, 2005 ) Examiner: Jay R. Ripley  
TITLE: MEANS FOR CONNECTING PIPES COMPRISING AN AXIAL  
PRESS SURFACE TO TAKE AXIAL PRESSURE FROM A  
PRELOADING TOOL

THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated July 9, 2007 having a shortened statutory period for reply set to expire on August 9, 2007.

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action, the Examiner made a restriction requirement, under 35 U.S.C. §121 and 372, between two groups of claims. Applicant provisionally elects the Group I claims, Claims 1-5.

Despite the above provisional election, the Applicant traverses the restriction requirement.

The present application is a national stage application of a PCT application. As such, in order to restrict the claims in the application, the Examiner must raise a unity of invention objection listing the groups of claims, and explain why each group lacks unity (general inventive concept). The Applicant considers that the Examiner has not met his burden of explaining why each group lacks unity.

The first group of Claims 1-5 is directed to a means of connecting two ends of pipes. The second group of Claims 6-9 is directed to compressing two ends of pipes, having pipe couplings, together to connect the pipes. The difference being that in Claims 6-9 pipe couplings are utilized. In both groups of claims the means for connecting/compressing the